

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 52, line 15, as indicated.

C2
 In one preferred embodiment of the present invention (as shown on Figure 3), the topsheet of the articles utilized will comprise stripes 30 of protease-containing composition that run in the article's longitudinal direction. These longitudinal stripes (or spirals) are separated by open areas where little or no protease-containing composition is applied to the topsheet. In these embodiments, each stripe of composition will typically have a width of from about 0.1 in. to about 0.75 in., more typically from about 0.1 in. to about 0.5 in., and the width of the stripes containing no composition will typically be from about 0.1 in. to about 1 in., more typically from about 0.15 to about 0.5 in. These ranges are applicable to typical infant diaper designs. For larger products such as adult incontinent products, these ranges may be higher

In The Claims

Please amend the following claims:

SubD1
 C3
 31. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor, wherein the protease inhibitor comprises from about 0.001% to about 30% by weight of the article; the protease inhibitor has an IC_{50} of about 500 μM or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method; the protease inhibitor has an IC_{50} of about 500 μM or less, as measured by a General Fecal Protease Method, and the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, pentamidine and its salts, and mixtures thereof.

C4
 36. (Amended) An absorbent article at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor, wherein the protease inhibitor comprises from about 0.001% to about 30% by weight of the article; an extract of at least a portion of the absorbent article produces a 20% reduction in substrate hydrolysis by a protease in an Absorbent Article Test Method; and the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulfonylfluoride hydrochloride, hexamidine and its salts, pentamidine and its salts, and mixtures thereof.

C5
 41. (Amended) The article of claim 31, wherein the absorbent article comprises a delivery system and the delivery system contains the protease inhibitor.

42. (Amended) The article of claim 41, wherein the delivery system is a skin care composition and the protease inhibitor comprises from about 0.01% to about 50% by weight of the skin care composition.

Please cancel claim 47 without prejudice.

53. (Amended) The article of claim 51, wherein the skin care composition is disposed on the topsheet in a plurality of stripes.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the present amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".